Amended claims

1. Method for establishing a connection (23; 43) suitable for communication in at least one direction between two subscriber stations (1; 2) in a communication network (20) comprising a plurality of switching stations or routers (21; 22; 42), in which a first subscriber station (1) and a second subscriber station (2) are connected with a predetermined router (21_1 and 21_2 respectively), and in which each router (21; 22; 42) can communicate with at least one of the other routers in the network,
in which said connection (23) runs via at least one of the said routers, each router (for example 22_2) being connected to a corresponding previous station or router (for example 22_1) and/or a corresponding next station or router (for example 22_3),
characterized in that
the first station (1) transmits a first message to the second station (2) via a first route (23) comprising at least one router (21_1), said first message containing first payment willingness information,
in which the second station (2), in response to the reception of the first message, transmits a second message back to the first station (1) via the said first route (23), the said second message containing second payment willingness information,
and in that
a router (for example 21_2) receiving the second message, if at least one of the first and the second payment willingness information entities has a predetermined value which is indicative of payment willingness, reserves at least a part of its communication capacity for direct connection with previous and following stations and/or routers (22_4; 2) related to said router (21_2).

2. Method according to Claim 1, in which a router (for example 21_2) receiving the second message, if at least one of the first and the second payment willingness information entities has a predetermined value indicative of payment willingness, also transmits the second message to the previous router or station (22_4) related to said router (21_2), which is repeated until said second message arrives at the first station (1).

3. Method according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which the first station (1), in response to the reception of the second message, transmits a third message to the second station (2) via the said route (23).

4. Method according to Claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, in which the said first subscriber station (1) is the initiator of the connection (23) to be established and the said second subscriber station (2) is the called station, in which the first payment willingness information has a predetermined first value which is indicative of payment willingness and in which the second payment willingness information has a second value which is different from said predetermined first value.

5. Method according to Claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, in which the said first subscriber station (1) is initiator of the connection (23) to be established and the said second subscriber station (2) is the called station, and in which, in the case of "collect call", the second payment willingness information has a predetermined first value which is indicative of payment willingness and the first payment willingness information has a second value which is different from said predetermined first value.

6. Method according to Claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, in which the said second subscriber station (2) is the initiator of the connection to be established and the said first station (1) is the called station, in which the second payment willingness information has a predetermined first value which is indicative of payment willingness and the first payment willingness information has a second value which is different from the said predetermined first value.

7. Method according to Claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, in which the said second subscriber station (2) is the initiator for the connection to be established and the said first subscriber station (1) is the called station, in which, in the case of "collect call", the first payment willingness information has a predetermined first value which is indicative of payment willingness and the second payment willingness information has a second value which is different from said predetermined first value.

8. Router, suitable for inclusion in a network (20), comprising:
at least two communication connections (101, 102),
means (110) for establishing a connection between said communication connections (101, 102),
a control unit (103), coupled to the said communication connections, which is arranged for controlling said means (110),
a memory (104) coupled to the control unit (103),
characterized in that
the control unit (103), in response to the reception of a first message at one of said communication connections, is arranged for

storing in the said memory (104) data which is representative of the payment willingness information present in said first message, and for transmitting the first message to a following router via another communication connection,

and in that

the control unit (103), in response to the reception of a second message at the said other communication connection, is arranged, if at least one of the data stored in the said memory (104) and the payment willingness information present in the received second message has a value which is indicative of payment willingness, for reserving at least a part of the capacity of the means (110) for a direct connection between said communication connections (102) and (101).

9. Router according to Claim 8, in which the control unit (103), in response to the reception of the second message at the said other communication connection, is arranged, if at least one of the data stored in the said memory (104) and the payment willingness information present in the received second message has a value which is indicative of payment willingness, for transmitting the second message via the first-named communication connection (101) to the previous router.

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All